

A1 may encompass one or more intermediate stages where portions of the image are temporarily buffered, transformed (e.g., color conversion), compressed, and uncompressed.

Please amend the paragraph spanning page 6, line 22, to page 7, line 2, as follows:

A2 Operating on the image data, the watermark decoder detects the watermark, reads the message from it, and transfers the printer control information in the message to the printer control unit. The printer control unit uses the printer control information as an index in a table to look up corresponding operating parameters. These operating parameters are associated with control signals. The printer control unit issues these control signals to the print mechanism. The print mechanism includes a print head and cartridge that allows for the control of ink drops per a given dot location on the page. Based on the absorption properties of the paper, as conveyed in the watermark, the printer control unit sends a control signal to the printer cartridge that specifies the number of drops to be emitted per dot.

Marked-up paragraphs are attached to this Amendment.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 13 as follows:

A3 1. (Amended) A paper medium carrying a steganographic message, the steganographic message including printer control information related to the paper medium that is readable by a machine from an image captured of at least a portion of the paper medium, and that is operable to control a printer so as to optimize print quality for physical characteristics of the paper medium.

A4 53 C3 7. (Amended) A printer system comprising:
an image sensor for capturing an image of print media;

A7 a steganographic decoder for reading a steganographic message from the image of the print media, the message including printer control information for optimizing printer operation for the print media; and

a printer control unit in communication with the decoder for receiving the printer control information and using the information to optimize printer operation for physical characteristics of the print media.

A5 13. (Amended) A method for adapting operation of a printer to a type of print media comprising:

capturing an image of at least a portion of a print media;

steganographically decoding a message from the image, including printer control information; and

using the printer control information to adapt operation of the printer according to physical characteristics of the print media.

Marked-up claims are attached to this Amendment.

Please add new claims 15 and 16 as follows:

A6 15. (New) A paper medium carrying a steganographic message, the steganographic message including printer control information related to at least one physical characteristic of the paper medium, the printer control information being readable by a machine from an image captured of at least a portion of the paper medium, and the printer control information being operable to control a printer so as to optimize print quality for the at least one physical characteristic of the paper medium.

16. (New) A method for adapting operation of a printer to a type of print media comprising:

capturing an image of at least a portion of a print media;